

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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AMCONSUL BELFAST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 098060

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT- IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH CONGRESS

REF: (A) STATE 200964

(B) STATE 087517

1. IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER, DR. GARRET FITZGERALD, ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON MAY 8 AND AFTER MEETING WITH CORRESPONDENTS AT NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, AND ACTING SECRETARY RUSH AT DEPARTMENT, ATTENDED RECEPTION ON CAPITOL HILL HOSTED BY CONGRESSMAN BURKE (D-MASS). FITZGERALD GAVE SHORT TALK ON SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND STRESSING HIS GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO MOVE FORWARD ALONG LINES OF DECEMBER 1973 SUNNINGDALE AGREEMENT BETWEEN IRISH AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS AND NORTHERN IRELAND EXECUTIVE. MAKING POINT THAT NOT ONLY RULING PARTIES IN DUBLIN, LONDON AND BELFAST, BUT THEIR OPPOSITION PARTIES AS WELL, SUPPORTED MODERATE SUNNINGDALE APPROACH, FITZGERALD SAID THAT TERRORISTS IN NO WAY REPRESENTED PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND. UN-
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FORTUNATELY, IRA TERRORISTS RECEIVED MONEY AND GUNS FROM

THE US. WHY AMERICAN SUPPORT SHOULD GO TO THE TERRORISTS WAS DIFFICULT FOR IRISH PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND. FITZGERALD ASKED CONGRESSMEN PRESENT NOT TO SUPPORT IRA FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES AND TO DO WHAT THEY COULD TO EXPLAIN TRUE SITUATION IN IRELAND TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS.

2. ATTENDING RECEPTION WERE O'NEILL (D-MASS), WOLFF (D-NY), BOGGS (D-LA), STUDDS (D-MASS), CONTE (D-MASS), CASEY (D-TEX), BINGHAM (D-NY), CRONIN (R-MASS), COTTER (D-CONN), GRASSO (D-CONN), FLOOD (D-PA), ANNUNZIO (D-ILL), ARENDS (R-ILL), COHEN (R-ME), HECHLER (D-WVA), ANDERSON (D-CAL), BOLAND (D-MASS), DULSKI (D-NY), MOAKLEY (D-MASS), SCHNEEBELI (R-PA) AND MACDONALD (D-MASS).

3. DURING RECEPTION CONGRESSMAN O'NEILL TOLD IRISH DESK OFFICER THAT SEVERAL CONGRESSMEN, HIMSELF INCLUDED, HAD BEEN MISLED INTO LENDING THEIR NAMES TO THE WRONG (IRISH) CAUSE BY CERTAIN HILL STAFFERS. THE "BOMB THROWERS," HE SAID, HAD BEEN ON THE HILL LAST FALL AND HE WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT HE DID NOT SUPPORT THEM. WHEN ASKED IF HE WAS REFERRING TO THE RECEPTION IN OCTOBER 1973 HOSTED BY HIMSELF AND CONGRESSMAN CONTE FOR RORY O'BRADY AND FRANK MCMANUS (REF A), O'NEILL SAID YES. SPYING CONTE APPROACHING, O'NEILL TOLD EVERYBODY WITHIN EARSHOT THAT CONTE HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING THE "WRONG PEOPLE" UP TO THE HILL. O'NEILL CONCLUDED BY MAKING SOME HARSH REMARKS ABOUT O'BRADY AND NOTING WITH SATISFACTION THAT MCMANUS HAD BEEN DEFEATED IN THE LAST BRITISH ELECTION.

4. CONGRESSMAN WOLFF TOLD DESK OFFICER THAT HE CONTINUED TO RAISE MONEY FOR IRISH NORTHERN AID COMMITTEE (INAC) SINCE ITS LEADERSHIP HAD ASSURED HIM THAT NOT ONE DIME WENT TO BUY ARMS FOR IRA. DESK OFFICER SAID THAT INAC WAS REGISTERED WITH JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AS FOREIGN AGENT WITH RECIPIENT OF FUNDS LISTED AS JOE CAHILL, WHO WAS LONG-TIME IRA TERRORIST, CURRENTLY IN JAIL IN REPUBLIC OF IRELAND FOR HIS PART IN SMUGGLING FIVE TONS OF SOVIET ARMS FROM LIBYA INTO IRELAND. CAHILL, DEPTOFF EXPLAINED, WAS KEY LINK BETWEEN IRA AND ARAB TERRORISTS.
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5. DURING HIS-BRIEF FORAY ON THE HILL, FITZGERALD MADE FAVORABLE IMPRESSION. CRISP LOGIC OF IRISH POSITION ON NORTHERN IRELAND, AND GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF VIOLENCE, AIDED BY AMERICAN MONEY AND GUNS, MADE POINT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT ONLY MODERATE APPROACH COULD BRING PEACE TO IRELAND. WE BELIEVE THAT EFFECT OF FITZGERALD'S TALKS, AND VISIT OF JOHN HUME IN APRIL (REFTEL) HAVE HAD CLEAR

BENEFIT OF ALERTING KEY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO REALITIES
OF IRISH SITUATION, AND THAT LONG-TERM EFFECT OF SUCH
VISITS MAY WELL BE LOWER LEVEL OF AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR
IRA TERRORISTS.

6. CONVERSATION WITH ACTING SECRETARY REPORTED SEPTTEL. RUSH

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